

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT-04T-144	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416																								
International application No. PCT/JP2004/005181	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 09.04.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22.04.2003																								
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC																										
<p>Applicant SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA</p>																										
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>1</u> sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I</td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages 1-39 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- the claims:
 nos. 3-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* 1, 2 _____ received by this Authority on 01.09.2004
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- the drawings:
 sheets fig. 1-14 _____ as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- the description, pages _____
 - the claims, nos. _____
 - the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- the description, pages _____
 - the claims, nos. _____
 - the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	
1. Statement		
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5
	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2-4
	Claims	1, 5
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5
	Claims	
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
Claims 1 and 5		
<p>Document 1 (JP 2001-276484 A (Toto Ltd.), 09 October 2001, entire text and fig. 1 to 5) discloses a washing machine that comprises an ion elution means whereby metal ions are eluted and then added to water, wherein the water with metal ions added thereto is supplied as a processing agent.</p>		
<p>Document 2 (Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility-Model Application No. 151219/1979 (Laid-open No. 69372/1981) (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co., Ltd.), 09 June 1981, entire text and fig. 1) discloses a washing machine with a configuration such that in cases when an unbalance is detected during the spin cycle for extracting water, which is carried out subsequent to supplying the processing agent, said unbalance is corrected manually without supplying water thereto, unlike in cases when an unbalance is detected prior to supplying the processing agent.</p>		
<p>Document 3 (JP 2001-9188 A (Sharp Corp.), 16 January 2001, paragraph [0036] and fig. 2) discloses a washing machine that comprises a drum, which is positioned so that the rotational axis of the drum</p>		

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intersects with the vertical direction of the washing machine.

It is common practice to configure so that operations that would otherwise have been carried out manually by a human are instead carried out automatically in a machine; therefore, it would be obvious to a person skilled in the art of the technical field in question to employ the invention that is disclosed in document 2 in the invention that is disclosed in document 1 and further configure so that in cases when an unbalance is detected during the spin cycle for extracting water, which is carried out subsequent to supplying the processing agent, the operation for correcting unbalances without supplying water thereto, which is different from the operation that is carried out in the cases when an unbalance is detected prior to supplying the processing agent, is carried out automatically by the washing machine.

Likewise, it would also be obvious to a person skilled in the art of the technical field in question to employ the form of the drum that is disclosed in document 3 in the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

Claims 2 to 4

Document 2 (Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility-Model Application No. 151219/1979 (Laid-open No. 69372/1981) (Tokyo Shibaura Electric Co., Ltd.), 09 June 1981, entire text and fig. 1) defines the general state of the art in the technical field in question, and discloses a washing machine with a configuration such that in cases when an unbalance is detected during the spin cycle for extracting water, which is carried out

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Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

subsequent to supplying the processing agent, said unbalance is corrected manually without supplying water thereto, unlike in cases when an unbalance is detected prior to supplying the processing agent, in order to prevent the loss of the processing effect that was imparted by the processing agent. However, the technical feature of supplying water with metal ions added thereto to the receiving tank and then carrying out a rinse cycle for correcting the balance by stirring the contents of the receiving tank is not disclosed or suggested in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report.